

## 2 lakh more sacks

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forces recovered 6 lakh bags of adulterated and date expired fertiliser and pesticides from the same market and sealed off 14 warehouses.

The joint force source said the seized adulterated fertiliser including banned FMP is worth at least Tk 10 crore.

**GAZIPUR**  
A BSTI mobile court yesterday raided Arong Milk factory of Brac Dairy and Food Product's at Lakhmipura and found that BSTI licence for producing Aarong Mango Juice had expired in June 2006, reports our Gazipur correspondent.

The court fined Mohammad Ali, director general (DG) of the factory, Tk 1.5 lakh or one-year imprisonment for not renewing BSTI licence to produce Aarong Mango Juice and for not maintaining hygienic condition inside the juice factory.

Meanwhile, the joint forces discovered an unauthorised factory that apparently manufactured fake fertilisers in a tin roof house at Bhadun village -- 10 kilometres away from Gazipur town. The forces seized the equipment and arrested one person.

**NOAKHALI**  
The joint force yesterday seized 1,500 sacks of adulterated and spoilt rice and 600 sacks of banned FMP fertiliser. They arrested vice president of central fertiliser dealers' association and general secretary of Chourmuhoni Traders' Union Salauddin Master and three others.

The other arrestees are Uttam Bhuiyan, Swapan Bhuiyan and Anwar.

**NARSINGDI**  
Our correspondent reports, the joint forces unearthed three fake engine oil factories and seized more than 18 barrels of fake engine oil. They sealed off the factories with and arrested 5 people including wife of Kaiyum Khan, owner of one of the factories.

## ACC chief Sultan

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commissioner in charge of finance, law, prosecution and investigation, is trying to persuade the government high-ups so that he could continue his job, sources said.

"After the president requested Maniruddin and others to step down, his lobbying became meaningless," said a source close to him.

"Now he [Maniruddin] is taking time with the hope to meet the chief adviser and explain his position," a source close to him said, adding, "But after the president's request to step down, such attempts are meaningless."

Prof Maniruzzaman Miah in his letter said he did not resign in a 'normal situation' as some people started speaking indecently against the ACC commissioners after the caretaker government formed a committee to suggest recommendations for checking corruption on January 24.

The very purpose of forming the committee is being hampered and some quarters seem to have long-cherished grievances against the commissioners, he said.

The ACC could not achieve any significant success in last two years, sources quoted Prof Miah as saying in the letter.

Claiming that he himself had very little to share as responsibility for the failure, he said there was conflict between the bureaucracy and the ACC while he failed to agree with Chairman Sultan Hossain Khan and Commissioner Maniruddin on various issues.

Saying that there was lack of transparency in different affairs of the commission, he questioned the role of the chairman and commissioner.

From the very beginning, the commission took many decisions that did not comply with rules. Such wrong decisions include recruitment of manpower in violation of ACC principles and filing of cases without preparing required rules for which the ACC later faced a number of 'counter cases'.

Miah noted that just before the ACC was launched, a Nissan Sunny car was purchased but it was not clear if the authority had approved that purchase. Miah objected to this purchase and it was discussed at a meeting of the commission. However in the resolution of the meeting, this issue was written in a different way, not representing the decision of the commission. The car supplier was paid for the purchase before the commission could take the final decision.

After the ACC was formed, furniture worth Tk 7.21 lakh was procured through an opaque process. Miah sought clarification about the purchase but this clarification was never sent to the commission meeting.

Similar non-transparent method was followed in the purchase of computers and some other goods, he said in the letter.

The committee formed on January 24 gave an initial impression that it would identify the persons responsible for the ACC's present state -- but now he is almost convinced that it would not happen, he added.

It is now necessary in the interest of the nation to identify the persons responsible for the ACC's present condition, Prof Miah said.

## Huda, Alamgir, Lotus

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declared illegal.

The rules came following petitions filed separately by the relatives of the three detainees challenging the legality of their detention.

Huda's daughter Antara Selina Huda, Mohiuddin's brother Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir, and Lotus Kamal's brother Golam Sarwar filed the petitions.

An HC division bench comprising justices M Abdul Wahhab Mia and M Emdadul Haq also asked the government authorities concerned to explain during the hearing of Huda's Habeas Corpus case why Huda should be kept in detention and should not be produced in court to be convinced of its legality.

The respondents are the home secretary, deputy home secretary, Dhaka district deputy commissioner, superintendent of Special Branch of police, and jailer of Dhaka Central Jail.

Huda's appeal said the former minister was arrested by the law enforcement agencies on February 4 without a warrant and then was taken to Dhaka City Metropolitan Magistrate's court. Later, he was sent to Dhaka Central Jail on a 30-day detention.

Huda is facing charges of betraying the protection of national security interests and national law and order and creating panic and fear among the people through harmful activities.

The charges also include compromising the country's sovereignty and security as well as harming its economy.

Advocate Sigma Huda, wife of Huda, said during the hearing that the former minister was detained illegally.

Huda was detained without any specific charges although no one can be detained without specific charges even under the Emergency Power Ordinance, she argued.

She said although the former minister did not try run away from justice, the law enforcement agencies cut off the power supply of his house and arrested him in "Ge-stapo" style. To arrest a senior and popular BNP leader in this way is illegal, she said.

In relation to Mohiuddin and Kamal's petitions, the same HC bench asked the authorities concerned to explain why the detainees should not be dealt with in accordance with law.

Barrister Amir-ul Islam moved the three petitions with assistance of Barrister Maniruzzaman Asad.

### Hasina

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accused to book," she said in a press statement.

The AL chief alleged that her party leaders and workers were harassed, tortured and arrested in false cases filed by the BNP-Jamaat men during the alliance rule.

Hasina said the present CG has come into being due to movement by the AL-led people's movement. So, it is not logical that AL leaders and workers are harassed during its tenure.

Leaders and activists of the BNP-Jamaat during the coalition rule became rich overnight looting public money, killed, tortured and raped raped, she said, adding the people now demand arrest of these criminals and recovery of the looted wealth and money.

Hasina, who also heads the AL-led grand alliance, said that using state power, the BNP-Jamaat rulers occupied a hospital's land at Tejgon in the city, and distributed that among their men in the name of a Media Palli. Besides, the BNP office at Naya Paltan is operating despite a court judgement in favour of a woman (landowner), she said.

She alleged that former ministers and lawmakers of the BNP-Jamaat illegally grabbed many houses owned by the state at Gulsan-Banani in the capital on nominal payment. And a police station have been set up at Dhanmondi by 'occupying Sheikh Rehana's' (her sister) residence'.

Hasina urged the CG to find out and arrest those BNP-Jamaat 'land grabbers' who occupied lands at Sonadia of Cox's Bazar, Hatia of Noakhali and in Laxmipur. Godfathers in the two parties who are behind illegal occupation of land by cutting hills in Mohekhali must also be tracked down and punished, she demanded.

Turning to the ongoing eviction drive, the grand alliance leader said the CG should take into consideration that those who set up illegal slums and bazars are the real culprits, and not the poor people who live there or are petty traders. "So it is necessary to take initiatives to rehabilitate these evicted slum people and petty traders on humanitarian grounds."

The AL president also urged the CG to see that those who bought lands in this country after 1947 are not harassed.

### Cabinet gives nod

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Dismissal and Removal) Rules 2002, and Bangladesh Judicial Service (Posting, Promotion, Leave, Control, Discipline and other Service Condition) Rules 2001.

The gazette notification for Bangladesh Judicial Service Pay Commission Rule 2002 was placed before the court during yesterday's hearing of the judiciary separation case at the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

### ADP progress

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percent -- during the first six months FY06 and FY07.

Of the ministries and divisions with poor ADP performance, information ministry implemented 2 percent, Liberation War affairs ministry 3 percent, shipping ministry 5 percent, land ministry 9 percent and Energy and Mineral Resources Division 7 percent.

### Asean envoys

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They also stressed the need for exchanging business delegations between Bangladesh and the Asean countries apart from the government level contacts, he added.

In reply to a question, the adviser said a business delegation from Vietnam will come to Bangladesh shortly while Brunei expressed its keen interest in making investment in hotel, real estate and infrastructure sectors.

He said more areas of cooperation will be identified during the bilateral trade and economic commissions' meeting with the Asean countries.

### Sand, brick

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at the same area and found that they use labels of different brands on their poor quality products before selling them.

The court nabbed one worker from a factory and fined it Tk 1 lakh while the owners and workers of the other two factories fled. The court sealed off all three factories and instructed the Keraniganj Police Station to seize all the fake tins and machinery, worth at least Tk 1.5 crore, sources present with the court said.

The court also instructed the police to destroy the fake corrugated tins.

Magistrate Rokon Ud Doula was tipped off about those factories, but as Keraniganj was out of his jurisdiction, he informed the court of Naznin and also accompanied her court during the drive, sources said.

Later, Magistrate Rokon Ud Doula raided Shathi Enterprise, an electronics shop at Nawabpur Road and found fake labels of different brands, which were put on sub-standard electronic items.

The court detained the owner Md Babul Mia and fined him Tk 1 lakh.

## Power of taxmen

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The last government accepted our proposals in toto in 2002 but reversed the same in 2004 when many discretionary powers were restored."

"We strongly feel that for different reasons, discretionary powers should be withdrawn, which, as far we are aware, were also recommended by the Taxation Reform Commission."

They said the growth in manufacturing sector might slow down during the remaining part of the current fiscal, and if that happens then it will be unfortunate because in the recent years manufacturing and service sectors provided the growth opportunities.

"We feel that it will be possible to control the damage if policy support is given to the manufacturing and service sectors, particularly to the small and medium enterprises. We suggest that immediate consideration be given to reductions of cost of funds, and import duties on raw materials and intermediary products," the business leaders said in their proposal.

The proposal termed the power crisis a threat to economic growth as the country now faces a shortfall of some 1500MW of power, adding that frequent power outages, load-shedding and low voltage of supply have reached alarming levels.

"A random survey of 100 industrial establishments conducted by our chamber indicates that the power crisis has affected the entire industrial sector. During the eight-month period between July 2005 and February 2006 production losses, due to power failure, suffered by the 100 surveyed firms amounted to Tk 5 billion," the proposal said.

The business leaders also said ad hoc prescriptions such as so-called load management and closing of shops, as well as a few barge-mounted or skid-mounted plants will not solve the problem. "It is necessary to adopt a clear short and medium-term plan to build new capacity, so that the current demand as well as the future requirements of power can be adequately met," said the MCCI proposal.

About tax holiday, the business leaders said a Jetro (Japan External Trade Organisation) report shows that there are longer tax holiday facilities in several countries, in Iran it is 15 years, in UAE 40 years and in Egypt for an unlimited period. "We want the chief adviser's intervention in the issue," the MCCI delegation urged Dr Fakhruddin.

Regarding whitening of black money, they said the chamber opposed the scheme from the beginning as it is not only an injus-

## ADB lauds CG's

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"I'm quite encouraged by the readiness to address the challenging issues," he told reporters after a meeting with Finance and Commerce Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam at the planning ministry.

It was his first meeting with a government policymaker after his arrival here on Tuesday night on a four-day visit.

Local representatives of three other Bangladesh's strategic development partners --The World Bank, DFID and Japan--accompanied the ADB executive.

"My visit is to assess the current situation of the country after a significant political development... our future commitment to the country depends on the situation. That's why this visit is important," Kunio Senga said.

He said the adviser briefed about what is happening in the country and what steps are being taken.

Kunio Senga said he will also hold talks with government policymakers, civil society members, private sector and his colleagues in the donor community here for a better understanding about the situation in Bangladesh.

He is also scheduled to call on the chief adviser to the caretaker government today.

"We'll then take decision on how ADB could continue with its assistance to Bangladesh," said the senior executive of the bank.

Replying to a question, he said ensuring good governance in the country is the first priority among the challenges it now faces and the steps being taken by the government should contribute towards improving the situation.

Asked whether the ADB would enhance its assistance in a better situation, he said the bank would continue with its 40 pipeline projects in Bangladesh.

The adviser apprised the country's four strategic development partners about the government's priority challenges, including ensuring an environment conducive to free and fair election, maintaining macroeconomic stability, poverty reduction and power sector development.

He also apprised the ADB executive of the initiatives taken to change persons, recast institutions and reform rules.

"They've expressed deep satisfaction at the initiatives and assured me of continuing their support to the government," the adviser told reporters after the meeting.

Replying to a question, he said the government has already taken some steps in two exclusive meetings to improve the power supply situation.

"The power supply system will improve in the next 2-3 months... we'll be able to manage the electricity supply," he added.

## Oriental Bank

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Two other Oriental Bank officials including ZM Salehuddin have been ordered to surrender to the lower courts within two weeks.

On January 18, 22 and 25, the ACC filed a number of corruption cases at different police stations against current and former Oriental Bank officials including CM Koyes Sami and Tanikul Islam Khan.

On January 28, the bank's officials filed a writ petition challenging the legality of the cases, claiming that the ACC officials who had filed the cases did not get approval from the commission's high-ups.

The HC then issued a rule nisi on the government and the ACC, asking them to show cause why the cases filed against the Oriental Bank's officials should not be considered illegal and ineffective.

The HC rejected the writ petition after a three-day long hearing, where HC bench stated that the ACC's first information report (FIR)

## Another held for additional IG Kabir murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another mugger involved in the murder of former additional inspector general of police Lutful Kabir was arrested yesterday from Tongi in the capital.

Other two arrestees -- Ujjal Hossain and Raju -- are on a 10-day remand and being quizzed by police. Police confirmed that mugging was the motive behind Lutful's killing.

Locals caught Ujjal soon after the incident and handed him over to Khilkhet police.

Shahidul Islam, joint commissioner of Detective Branch, told reporters after quizzing Ujjal that Lutful was killed during mugging, "but we are not fully satisfied, we'll investigate the matter thoroughly."

Mahbubul Alam, brother of Lutful, filed a murder case with Badda Police Station.

The muggers attacked Lutful when he was returning to his Uttara house from Malibagh with his friend Rashed Kamal in his car, police said.

Badda police told the Daily Star that the muggers swooped on the car carrying Rashed and Lutful through rolled down windows on both sides while the car was caught in a traffic jam near rail crossing on Pragati Sarani. Rashed opened the door on his side and kicked one of the snatchers away while Lutful came out the other side of the car and grabbed another snatcher. The snatcher stabbed Lutful during the scuffle. The other snatcher fled the scene by that time.

Lutful was rushed to Apollo Hospitals in Baridhara where doctors declared him dead.

BSS adds, Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday visited Lutful Kabir's residence and consoled his family members. She placed a wreath on his coffin and demanded the government to unearth the causes that led to the murder of valiant freedom fighter and former additional inspector general of police Lutful Kabir.

### CPA relaxes

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such policy after introduction of three shifts instead of two in the port.

This resulted an increase in the ships' turnaround time hampering the export-import activities, sources said.

According to the CPA, the stevedores can also appoint additional workers for operating container spreaders.

The dock labourers will not be allowed to create any obstruction in appointing additional workers, the CPA said warning that if they do so it would be against the emergency rule.

### UN convention

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The significance of the convention is that it is a legal international tool introduced by the UN to put anti-corruption measures by various states within a framework of regulatory agreements and laws.

These agreements contain key points, the most prominent of which are related to identifying the means of protecting state funds from corruption and the corrupt people, providing logistic and practical supports to combat corruption, and intensifying the battle against the corrupt people and their prosecution.

### BNP 'readies'

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against them too.

Former state minister for home affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar recently visited US Ambassador Patricia A Butenis and British High Commissioner Anwar Chowdhury to discuss the latest political situation.

Party sources said during their discussion Babar tried to convince the diplomats that Tarique was not involved in corruption.

A few other BNP leaders, who are also keeping close contacts with the foreign diplomats, are playing their roles in this regard too, the sources added.

The sources also said Mamun's arrest made the BNP high ups nervous as they fear that the government might take actions against Tarique for the allegations of corruption against him, which they think are politically motivated propaganda against him and Hawa Bhaban.

But after the arrest of a few senior leaders of the party early Sunday, BNP high ups sent a signal to the leaders, who are close to Tarique and Hawa Bhaban, to be prepared for surrender if the joint forces ask them to.

According to the party high-up's direction, Mosaddak Ali Falu, political secretary to the BNP chairperson, and Ali Asgar Lobi, owner of Hawa Bhaban, had contacted the law enforcers before the joint forces arrested them.

Earlier, the joint forces could not capture Falu and Lobi, as the two were not present in their houses during the raids.

## US asks India to "try us" as defence partner

AFP, Bangalore

The United States has for the first time flown in its big guns for India's air show, seeking a slice of a market that may generate 30 billion dollars of defence deals in five years.

More than 50 firms from the United States are taking part in Aero India starting yesterday, including Boeing, which makes the F-18, Lockheed Martin, the manufacturer of the F-16, General Electric and Raytheon.

The massive C-17 heavy lift-aircraft, the naval reconnaissance P-3 Orion and the CH-47 Chinook cargo helicopter will all be in action over the skies of south India.

"A new chapter is beginning in the U.S.-India relationship," said Anil Shrikhande, vice president and country head for Boeing Integrated Defense Systems, a unit of the US giant planemaker.

"There are opportunities for US companies, which have a lot to offer," he said, adding that for Boeing "a whole dimension has opened up."

US Ambassador David Mulford recalled that his country's representation at the last air show at this hi-tech hub in 2005, was limited to two F-15 fighter planes that did not fly.

"They were stationary on the runway," Mulford said. "This time, we have three F-16s and two F-18s, which will be flying, as will other airplanes."

What the banker-turned-diplomat called the "heightened visibility" of the United States at the event is symbolic of the warming of a relationship that has often been uneasy.

Washington is plugging its companies to tap a market that may generate as much as 30 billion dollars worth of defence deals in the next five years.

India was the pre-eminent ally of the former Soviet Union, the United States' Cold War rival, and still sources two-thirds of its military needs from Russia, its successor-state.

The US has also been the main military backer of Pakistan, the neighbour with which India has been

## Ex-IOJ MP Shahidul

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firearms, 23 bullets and one bomb, said the release.

Of the arrestees, 800 face arrest warrant, 14 are convicted in different cases, seven are accused under the Arms Act and three under the Explosive Substances Act.

**SHAHIDUL'S ARREST**  
Rab men raided Shahidul's house on Babar Road at Mohammadpur in the capital several times on Sunday night and Tuesday but did not find him. They left a message for Shahidul asking him to meet Rab-2 officials.

After Rab men contacted him again over phone around 12:30pm yesterday, Shahidul met senior party leaders who advised him to surrender.

"Shahidul went to Rab office at Moghbazar with a few of our leaders and he was arrested," Khelafat Organising Secretary Humayun Kabir told The Daily Star.

Shahidul was later taken to the joint interrogation cell at the Rab headquarters in Uttara, Rab-2 Commanding Officer (CO) Akbar Hossain told The Daily Star.

Shahidul, also a leader of Islami Oikya Jole (Shaikhul Hadith), was elected an MP from Narail-2 in the by-election with BNP-led four-party alliance's ticket after Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina relinquished the seat.

Hasina alleged that Shahidul had militant connections when he was a lawmaker during the immediate past BNP-led four-party coalition's rule.

Shahidul, however, got nomination from the AL-led grand alliance to contest the scraped January 22 parliamentary elections from Narail-2 following a five-point memorandum of understanding signed between Khelafat Majlish and AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil on December 23.

**SALAHUDDIN-LOBI**  
After surrendering to the joint forces on Tuesday, both Salahuddin and Lobi were taken to undisclosed places. They were handed over to Gulshan police yesterday.

Detectives took the two to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court at 4:00pm yesterday amidst tight security.

The police submitted a forwarding report to the court saying Salahuddin embezzled huge money when he was the state minister for communications through corruption in the name of setting up CNG filling stations and development work of roads and highways.

The report also said he obstructed public safety and discipline and was involved in destroying the country's economy and needs to be detained under the Special Powers Act in order to refrain him from destroying economy and hampering public safety.

During the hearing of his bail petition, Salahuddin along with his lawyer brushed aside all allegations brought against him and lashed out at the present caretaker government saying it has taken a stand against politics.

"We are now in a situation where the relatives of former ministers and lawmakers cannot know their whereabouts after arrest," Salahuddin said.

The forwarding report for Lobi said he misappropriated a huge amount of money when he was the president of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) through corruption in the name of development of the board.

He bagged a huge sum of money through political influence in the name of development in different projects at different places in Khulna, the report added.

While moving his bail prayer, Lobi's lawyer described the allegations as false and concocted.

"The cricket sector saw most development when Lobi was in the BCB. Earlier, cricket matches used to be held only in Dhaka, but now they are being held in Bogra, Khulna and Chittagong because of his initiative," the lawyer said.

"The only fault of my client is that he owns Hawa Bhaban," he said.

Hearing both sides of the two petitioners, Metropolitan Magistrate Selina Akhter rejected their bail petitions and ordered to send them to Dhaka Central Jail on a 30-day detention.

**OTHER ARRESTS**  
In Barisal, the joint forces arrested district JCD President Manowar Hossain Jipu yesterday in Brown Compound area in the city. He was being interrogated at the joint forces' camp in the evening, reported our correspondent.

Local authorities said Jipu faces allegations of toll collection and extortion, but his family members claimed there is no case against him with any police station.

In Jhenidha, the joint forces arrested District Jibuo Dal President Ahsanul Haque Munna along with his accomplice Feroz Khan Tuesday night. They were later handed over to Kotwali police.

Earlier on Tuesday, the forces arrested Jamal Sarker, Savar upazila unit president of BNP and chairman of Tetuljhara Union Parishad, at his office at Hemayetpur. After interrogation at the army camp, he was later handed over to local police.

In Gazipur, the joint forces yesterday arrested Afzal Hossain Sarker, vice president of Students' Union of Bhawal Badre Alam University, in Naojara area. They also arrested three alleged criminals--Mizan, Mofiz and Idris--in Tongi.

Meantime, law enforcers visited AL leader Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir's village home at Gulbahr in Kachua, Chandpur. Mohiuddin was arrested on Sunday and has been in jail since Monday under a 30-day detention.

The law enforcers enquired about his relatives and about his property including land and houses.